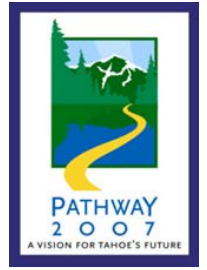


6-22-06 progress draft, not for distribution

Pathway 2007 • Placed-Based Planning



Public Lands & Waterways: Preliminary Principles

The community workshop process has explored what we value about the Basin and what type of futures we desire. Based on workshops and local Planning Working Group input, an overall set of preliminary principles has been prepared. Along with the preliminary concepts, they will be combined with other sub-regions and presented and discussed with the Forum. They are to become the basis for the Public Lands and Waterways Vision Summary.

The public lands and waterways workshop participants acknowledge the public concern over catastrophic fire, lake quality and the overall scenic quality and natural beauty of the Tahoe Basin is shared by visitors and residents.

Overall Planning Themes:

- Improve existing facilities and add new facilities to preserve and enhance the quality of the recreational experience.
- Provide site-specific access consistent with the desired recreation experience.
- Promote the diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Restore and manage public lands and waterways to the highest environmental standards while maintaining a quality user experience.
- Pursue flexible land management to maintain the quality experience and health of the natural environment of the Tahoe Basin.
- Education and orientation of visitors and residents about public lands and waterways is important for enjoyment, environmental protection, and long-term value.

Preliminary Principles

At the May workshop, teams prepared concepts for public lands and waterways in the Basin that identified the most desirable changes in the next 20 years. These included alternative transportation and parking options (access), reducing over-use and encouraging use in more capable areas (capacity), providing diverse, high-quality recreation experiences (recreation) and restoring facilities and protecting places that have degraded (restoration).

Principle 1: Access

Access to public lands and waterways was deemed critical for both residents and visitors. Problems exist in areas that were viewed as “focal points” around the lake such as Emerald Bay. Alternative transportation options including public transit, boat ferries, pedestrian and bike trails, as well as improved parking areas for cars were suggested.

Design and Planning Features:

- Plan appropriate sized parking areas at highly desired destinations. Charge for parking where appropriate.
- Provide public transportation to highly congested areas and promote its use.
- Build bike and pedestrian trails with access points to recreation sites.
- Protect and feature scenic vistas.
- Increase lake access opportunities.

Principle 2: Capacity

The issue of capacity came up as primarily a seasonal/peak time issue at highly-used areas such as Emerald Bay. For areas where capacity is causing congestion and degradation, measures

should be implemented that disperse the crowds. Encouraging use by residents and visitors to areas that do not have capacity problems needs to happen concurrently.

Design and Planning Features:

- Reduce capacity problems by capping the number of visitors to highly used areas as needed, especially during peak times.
- Expand options to reduce congestion and over-use.
- Encourage use of less-impacted areas to disperse crowds at high-peak times.

Principle 3: Recreation

Recreation is a primary activity for residents and visitors around the Basin. It is important to provide a range of activities – both motorized and non-motorized as well as urban and rural options (parks and beach access in cities as well as backcountry access).

Design and Planning Features:

- Provide diverse year-round recreational opportunities.
- Improve access to recreation through alternative transportation
- Provide appropriate facilities at trailheads, urban recreation sites and improved rural access points.

Principle 4: Restoration

Protecting public lands and waterways for the future was a common point made at the workshops. Improving eroded trails, reducing wildfire risk, and restoring degraded meadows, wetlands, etc. were highlighted.

Design and Planning Features:

- Restore areas currently damaged by over-use.
- Improve trails and facilities.
- Reduce wildfire risks and improve forest health in the wildland urban interface areas.